In addition to these, Chaygaon Growth Centre, Assam is under process.

The New Industrial Policy for the North- East has also been announced.

(ix) Health For the Naga Hospital at Kohima, a sum of Rs. 8 crores was been released in 1998-99 for referral facilities from Central Pool of Resources.

(x) Drinking Water The Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme and the Itanagar-Naharlagun Water Supply Scheme have been sanctioned.

Water Scarcity in Gujarat

*450. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assured that the water scarcity will be eliminated during this year;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction;

(c) the number of handpumps and tubewells set up in Gujarat which was recently in drought; and

(d) whether Government would give a package to Gujarat on priority?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The National Agenda for Governance of the Government, *inter-alia,* envisages to provide access to drinking water facilities to all rural habitations in five years time. As Drinking Water Supply is a State subject, and the programmes to provide Drinking water facilities are implemented by the State Governments, all the States/UTs were requested to prepare action plans to provide Drinking Water facilities to all rural habitations in five years time. All the States/UTs, except Orissa, Manipur, A&N Islands, Chandigarh and Daman and Diu have prepared their respective action plans for time-bound implementation, subject to availability of funds.

(c) As per the information furnished by the State Government, as on 1st April 1999, 91268 handpumps and 7998 piped water supply schemes have been installed in Gujarat.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from the allocation to the State under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The entire Central share of

Rs. 121.05, crore, out of State's allocation of Rs. 161.40 crore under CRF for 1999-2000 was released to Gujarat. In addition to CRF, assistance was considered from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity in accordance with a set procedure. The Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 722.16 crore from the NFCR in the wake of drought was considered in accordance with the procedure and this was placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) in the meeting held on 27.3.2000 and the NCRC approved an assistance of Rs. 54.58 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief. This amount was released to the State Government on 31.3.2000. Two quarterly instalments of Centre's share of CRF for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 87.42 crore have also been released to the State. In addition to this, first installment of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds for the year 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 3542.50 lakh and first installment of ARWSP(DDP) for the year 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 200.00 lakh have also been released to Gujarat.

Subsidy for National Projects on Bio-Gas Development in H.P.

*451. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received from Government of Himachal Pradesh for grant of subsidy for National Project on Bio-gas' Development on the pattern of J&K State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agro-climatic/demographic/geographical conditions of Himachal Pradesh are similar like J&K; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not allowing subsidy at par with J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for grant of Central subsidy for family type bio-gas plants on the pattern applicable for the Jammu and Kashmir State was received in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is not differentiating between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in this matter and since 1998-99, Central subsidy of Rs. 3,200/per bio-gas plant is allowed in both the States.